



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 3, 2021**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Bruce Whitaker, Vice Chair, Orange County Water District  
Mike Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Municipal Water District  
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District  
June D. Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

T. Milford Harrison, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Brenda Dennstedt, Alternate Western Municipal Water District  
Kelly E. Rowe, Alternate, Orange County Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Marie Jauregui, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Haley Mullan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Jordan Brandman, City of Anaheim; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Nick Dunlap, City of Fullerton; Hope Smythe, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Hall on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 and N-08-21, this meeting was conducted virtually, and all votes were taken by oral roll call.

**2. ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

**4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED**

There were no added or deleted items.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JULY 20, 2021**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER’S REPORT – JUNE 2021**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)</b>
Motion/Second:	Hayes/Gardner
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT (CM#2021.57)**

Jeff Mosher provided an oral report and referenced Resolution No. 2018-1 contained in the agenda packet on page 18. The current SAWPA Commission appointees to the OWOW Steering Committee are the Commission Vice Chair, Commissioner Bruce Whitaker, and Commission Secretary-Treasurer, Commissioner Mike Gardner. Due to Commissioner Gardner’s current commitment schedule, Chino Basin Watermaster Board meetings conflict with OWOW Steering Committee meetings as scheduled. Consistent with Resolution No. 2018-1, staff is seeking Commissioner appointment to serve on the OWOW Steering Committee. Commissioner June Hayes nominated Brenda Dennstedt to continue serving on the OWOW Steering Committee. Commissioner Dennstedt thanked everyone and noted she is happy to continue serving as a member of the OWOW Steering Committee and looks forward to the continuous involvement with the Commission.

**MOVED**, to appoint the nomination recommendation of Commissioner Brenda Dennstedt to the OWOW Steering Committee.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Hayes/Gardner
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**B. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HOPE SMYTHE FOR HER SERVICE**

Jeff Mosher and Mark Norton provided an oral report commending Hope Smythe, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Executive Officer for her 30-plus years of service within the watershed and the region. Mr. Norton provided a list of accomplishments and projects which have strengthened all the collaborative efforts with the numerous task forces. Ms. Smythe thanked the Commissioners and noted she wanted to recognize the good work SAWPA has done over the years; it’s been a very collaborative effort between the regulators, SAWPA, and the Regional Board. A lot could not have been accomplished without SAWPA and the Commission’s support in bringing all the diverse stakeholders together to really work on complex solutions and to promote water quality and water resiliency within the watershed. Ms. Smythe noted that the Regional Board has selected Jayne Joy as the Executive Officer and she knows she will continue the strong working relationship with SAWPA. The Commission thanked Ms. Smythe for her years of leadership, service, professionalism, dedication, and wished her well as she begins her next chapter of retirement.

**MOVED**, to approve Resolution 2021-6 recognizing Hope Smythe for her service as Executive Officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)**  
Motion/Second: Gardner/Whitaker  
Ayes: Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

**C. PROPOSAL FOR GRANT APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR SMALL COMMUNITY WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS SERVING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED (CM#2021.58)**

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Grant Support for Small Community Water/Wastewater Systems serving Disadvantaged Communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed contained in the agenda packet on pages 27-43. The purpose is to provide technical assistance support for small community water/wastewater systems who lack the staffing and technical expertise to apply for government grants. At the Member Agency's General Managers meeting on April 13, the General Managers recommended that SAWPA staff conduct a workshop with SAWPA member agency staff to determine the need for ongoing outreach to water systems supporting disadvantaged and Tribal communities, and to learn more about California Rural Water Association (CRWA) support services available. On May 25, a Workshop was held amongst the member agency staff. The consensus was that SAWPA member agencies are not currently implementing similar grant applications or grant administration/construction management assistance programs, and the level of communication between SAWPA member agency staff and small systems is not clearly defined. On June 8, a refined business proposal was presented to the General Managers reflecting support for up to ten (10) small community water/wastewater systems. The General Managers recommended that SAWPA staff present the proposal to the SAWPA Commission noting that the need for services is not evenly distributed across the watershed, and to determine if the SAWPA member agencies would have interest in supporting and possible funding. CRWA's grant application services cost estimate is for \$150,000 with possible cost share funding amongst the member agencies of \$30,000 each through September 2022.

Commissioner Whitaker questioned if SAWPA would routinely provide expertise and direction informally. Mr. Norton noted to a very limited extent it has been SAWPA's practice under the OWOW Outreach Program. Commissioner Harrison questioned if there are any efforts relative to encouraging and or requiring consolidation with some of the smaller utilities that need assistance. Commissioner Slawson noted that mutual water companies are privately owned and those owners within the agency have stock ownership and perceived value and may want some financial reward, and to try to justify it to rate payers would be a hard sell. Commissioner Gardner raised concerns about having to deal with privately owned companies and if at some point the State steps up and will fund the necessary repairs it might make sense for some of the agencies to assimilate a privately owned water company. Also, justifying to rate payers that their money is being used for the benefit of customers within their service area versus to a sister utility nearby. Jeff Mosher noted there's a tight window to submit proposals for the Proposition 1 Round 2 and questioned if there was an interest by the Commission to further pursue. Chair Hall noted she would need to discuss with her staff and requested that it be brought back at a future meeting.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.C.

**7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

**A. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT – 100-DAY PLAN**

Jeff Mosher provided a presentation on the SAWPA 100-Day Plan (not included in the agenda packet); and provided a brief overview of the highlights and outcomes within each department. The anticipated next steps are the Strengths Opportunities Aspirations Results (SOAR) to create an assessment strategy through collaboration for the Strategic Planning approach. The anticipated results are to build trust and connections, create innovations, fuel productivity, inspire action, and generate positive change. A future Commission Workshop will review the outcome and results in preparation for the Strategic Plan.

**B. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Kelly Rowe noted that Governor Newsom is urging California urban areas to voluntarily work towards a 15% reduction of water use due to the anticipated dry year. All water districts in the state are to meet the goal and promote more to the public on the importance of conserving water for the benefit of the watershed on a long-term basis.

**C. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments provided.

**D. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

Chair Hall recessed the meeting at 10:59 a.m. for Closed Session.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1)**

Name of Case: Southern California Edison Company vs. The Blue-Sky Institute, et al;  
Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVRI 2100168

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(2)**

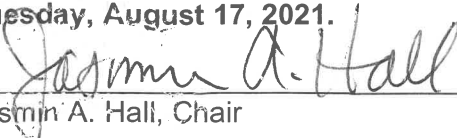
Number of Potential Cases: One

Chair Hall resumed Open Session at 11:06 a.m.; Legal Counsel Andy Turner announced that the Commission heard a report from staff and Counsel, and no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.A. and 8.B.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.**

  
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Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:

  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board